86 onwards are as follows :—

Year	Quantity MT
1985-86 .	38,538
1986-87	40,228
1937-88 .	41,984
1988-89 .	51,363
1989-90 .	26,549

(b) As against an authorised quantity of 40,000 MTs decided for imports during 1990-91, a quantity of 31,700 MT has already been imported.

Setting up of an apex level holding body for export processing zones

1878. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bombay Chambers of Commerce and Industry has requested the Central Government to set up an Apex Level Holding Body bringing various export processing zones under its umbrella ;

(b) whether it has also suggested generation of exports worth 3000 crores of rupees per annum in a period of five years ; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal had earlier been considered for setting up a Central Statutory Authority for the Administration of Export Processing Zones in India and it was decided to drop the proposal. As regards generation of higher exports from the Export Processing Zones, Government has already initiated steps to revamp the scheme of EPZ with a view ot improve the incentives and,to simplify the rules and procedures to further stimulate exports from these Zones.

Long term trade pact with the USSR

1879. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be,pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have a proposal . to establish/long term trade pact with the USSR ; ,

(b) whether the areas have been identified for the purpose ; and

(c) if so, ,what are the major areas which are proposed to be covered under the pact ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) to (c) Trade Agreement between India and the USSR providing for trading on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian Rupees and on balancing basis stands extended for a further period of five years, namely, upto 31st December, 1995. It is accordingly proposed to conclude a long term trade plan with the USSR for the 1991-95. Preliminary negotiations for conclusion of this plan have already taken place. Some of the main items of export from India to the USSR that are proposed to be included in this Plan are Agricultural products, Minerals and Ores, Chemicals Products, Leather items, Textile items, Engineering goods etc., Similarly, the main items of import that are proposed to be covered include Machinery items, Crude oil and Petroleum products, Fertilizers, industrial raw materials like newsprint, asbestos, chemicals, Steel products, Non-feirous Metals, etc. It is expected that the Long Term Trade Plan will be finalised by the last quarter of the current year.

Clearance of Srisailam left bank Canal Scheme

1880. DR. NARREDDY THU LASI REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Srisailam Left Bank Canal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh has since been cleared ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) to (c) The Project was returned to the State Governments in June, 1987 with a comment, among others, to clearly establish the water availability on long term basis. The State Government have not complied with the observations.

Income-tax raids on Indian Express Group of Companies

1881. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following recent raids on the Indian Express group of companies by the Income Tax Department Officials,

re-opening of the completed tax assessments has been ordered from the assessment year 1972-73;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the details of the proceedings launched against the above companies and for what violations;

(c) what are the details of big business houses, if any, whose completed assessments since 1972-73 have been re-opened during the last five years; and

(d) what are the specific provisions under the Income Tax Rules to prevent harassments of the innocent by motivated officials and whether such instances have been reported to Government during the last three years, if so, what was the number thereof, year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Searches under Section 132 of the Inclme-tax Act were conducted on the Indian Express group of cases between 7th March, 1989 and 23rd March, 1989. The income-tax assessments of the concerns of this group were re-opened on the basis of investigations carried out and action initiated prior to the commencement of these searches as per the following details:

Naras of the case	Assessmsnt year	Date of re-opening
Andhra Prabha (P) Ltd., Madras	. 1983-84	8-3-1989
Express Nswspapsrs Ltd., Madras	. 1972-73 to 1979-80	27-3-1989
Indian Ex-iress Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.,		30-3-1989
Express Trad-rs (Firm) Bombay	. 1976-77 to 1979-80	30-3-1989

(c) There are 76 large industrial houses and 19 single large under takings which are listed by MRTP Commission as on 31st March, 1988. These houses and under-takings comprise of 1655 companies, in addition to several entities such as firms, HUFs and Individuals. All these companies, firms, HUFs and Individuals are assessed to tax